

schools or ending the racist Jim Crow segregation of buses, restaurants and public facilities, and their lobbying efforts which ultimately led to the passage of the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1960, and 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the reauthorization of the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act of 2006, must be commended.

And Mr. Speaker, the NAACP took the helm to organize the national boycott against American companies doing business with the former apartheid regime in South Africa. The NAACP also protested, most recently in 2000, the flying of the confederate flag over state buildings in South Carolina, which to date was, the largest civil rights demonstration (50,000 people) ever held in the South. The importance of this organization whose impact has been demonstrated in almost every part of the country and in many parts of the world cannot be overstated.

But the critical work of the NAACP is needed now more than ever. The slow systematic dismantling of Affirmative Action; the declining homeownership rates of African American families; the growing poverty rate of African American families and the growing achievement gap between white and black children; the disproportionate incarceration rates of black male youth, and the growing illiteracy rate of black children are all important causes for the NAACP.

Add to that fact that the NAACP was a leading champion of the Hurricanes' Katrina and Rita survivors. They are still pushing for justice for all in the Gulf Coast region and you can see why the NAACP is still so necessary today.

We must continue to beat the drum and join the NAACP in their efforts to bring their mission for economic and social justice for all to reality.

Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way since the founding days of the NAACP, Brown vs. Board of Education, the Voting Rights Act. In the words of former NAACP president Bruce Gordon, "There is still a lot of civil rights work to be done. Many people believe the passing of Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott-King and other icons of the movement signals that the task is over." He added, "Nothing could be further from the truth."

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF H.R.
1194, THE TELEPHONE EXCISE
TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2007

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Telephone Excise Tax Repeal Act of 2007. As the sponsor of this legislation in previous sessions of Congress, I thank my colleagues in the majority and members of the Ways and Means Committee for recognizing the value of this important issue. Congress must continue to work together in a bipartisan fashion, building on momentum from last year's cosponsorship by 220 members, to abolish this tax. I am proud to join with my colleagues today to introduce the Telephone Excise Tax Repeal Act in the 110th Congress, which will eliminate the

three percent tax on all telecommunications services.

The federal excise tax on telecommunications services was used to pay for the Spanish-American War in 1898. This tax was intended to tap only the wealthiest 1,400 telephone owners. However, with more telephones than people in the United States today, this excise tax represents the polar opposite of a luxury tax, and merely serves to raise prices for consumers.

Telephone tax revenues once used to pay for the Spanish-American War are deposited in the General Fund. Unlike the gas tax, which directs revenues to the Highway Trust Fund, no specific account exists to redirect money collected from the telephone "luxury" tax. Other items subject to a "luxury" tax include airplane tickets, beer and liquor, firearms and cigarettes. Obviously, a telephone is a necessity, and thus does not fit with this list of "luxury" items.

Last year, the U.S. Treasury Department conceded the legal dispute over the federal excise tax on long-distance telephone service. After 11 consecutive courtroom losses by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury Secretary John Snow announced that collection of the three percent excise tax on long-distance and bundled services would end on July 31, 2006. In fact, the IRS is issuing refunds of tax on long-distance service for the past 3 years. This year, taxpayers may apply for refunds on their 2006 tax forms. The Treasury's action is a step in the right direction, and it is finally time for Congress to put an end to this hidden tax on local telecommunication services.

The telephone tax burdens our communication abilities and is destructive to technological innovation. It must be repealed immediately. I urge my colleagues to build upon the successes we have had in the past and to help American taxpayers win the war on their wallets once and for all.

IN HONOR OF RICHARD DEL
BOCCIO

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to honor an outstanding resident of the City of Hoboken. Richard Del Boccio is retiring after 40 years of dedicated service as an educator and public official.

Mr. Del Boccio, who was born and raised in Hoboken, began his career in education in the early 1960s, and for 15 years made his mark in the lives of thousands of students as Principal of the Salvatore Calabro School. Later, as Interim Superintendent, Adjunct Professor at St. Peter's College and State Appointed Principal Mentor, he continued to mold and oversee the Hoboken School System, inspiring students and faculty alike, and setting and example for young minds to follow.

Richard Del Boccio's teaching and mentoring led him to fight for the improvement of his community as a public official. Elected Hoboken Councilman at Large, he became involved in the betterment of his native city and the lives of his constituents. Mr. Del Boccio became City Council President and retires as Councilman of the Second Ward of the City of Hoboken.

Mr. Del Boccio cemented his commitment to public service by being a member of various community organizations, including the Hoboken Memorial September 11th and Pier C Park Waterfront Steering Committees, and taking active rolls as Co-Chairman of the Youth Advisory Committee and Co-Founder of the Neighborhood Block Watch Committee. His dedication won him the Christopher Columbus Award for Community Service in 2005.

It is my privilege and honor to recognize Richard Del Boccio for his dedication to Hoboken and the people of New Jersey. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing him, his wife, children, and grandchildren continued health and happiness in the future.

COMMEMORATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "228 INCIDENT" IN
TAIWAN

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the "228 Incident" in Taiwan.

On February 28, 1947, the arrest of a cigarette vendor in Taipei triggered large-scale protests there against military repression of Taiwan's residents.

Madam Speaker, while the protests the event sparked were quashed in the days and weeks following the initial incident, the event had far reaching implications.

Over the next half-century, the movement that grew out of the event helped to pave the way for Taiwan's momentous transformation from a dictatorship to thriving and pluralistic democracy.

In some ways, the 228 incident was Taiwan's "Boston Massacre."

Madam Speaker, I hope Members will join me in commemorating this important historical event, and I look forward to the day that we can welcome Taiwan's elected President to Washington, DC.

HONORING MR. LEVI LEE SMITH

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the late Mr. Levi "Lee" Smith who served his central New York community in a number of unique ways.

He founded the Onondaga Citizens League, OCL, which promotes civic education and involvement in public affairs. Organized in 1978, the OCL has offered the community studies on local government consolidation, voter participation, area health services, the quality of local arts, and community housing assessments among others.

Lee's Institute for Retired Professionals offers local retirees the opportunity to remain intellectually active in community affairs after retirement.

Perhaps most notable is Lee's work to found the Thursday Morning Roundtable,